

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated February 22, 2006 in conjunction with the enclosed Request for Continued Examination. Claims 11 and 15-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 23-26 have been amended, and new Claims 27-49 have been added. No new matter has been added to the Claims. Please charge or credit Deposit account No. 02-1818 for any payment insufficiency or overpayment related to this Response.

The Office Action rejected Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, stating that the Specification does not provide enablement for the sequential causing of each symbol to have a wild function. Applicants respectfully disagree with such rejection. Nonetheless, to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended Claim 24. Applicants respectfully submit that such amendment overcomes such rejection.

The Office Action rejected Claims 11 and 15-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,439,993 to O'Halloran ("O'Halloran"). Applicants have amended independent Claim 23 to clarify the Claim language. Amended Claim 23 sets forth the following elements: "at least one wild function which is: (a) operable on a first one or more of the symbols in a first one of the combinations; (b) inoperable on one or more of the symbols in a second one of the combinations, the first combination being different from the second combination; and (c) operable to increase a likelihood of meeting at least one of the winning conditions." O'Halloran does not disclose such elements. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 23-28 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants canceled Claims 11 and 15-22 without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants added new Claims 27-49. Applicants respectfully submit that such new Claims are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art, such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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